

100 PEAKS

Volume 1

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Issue No. 1

As a fitting introduction to this new publication nothing could be more suitable than to quote from Weldon Heald's article on the subject, which appeared in the Oct. '60 Southern Sierran.

"Southern Californians are lucky. Los Angeles and Vienna are the only two cities of over a million population in the entire world that have great mountain ranges at their doorsteps. High above the crowded, smoggy valleys, from Santa Barbara to San Diego, are running streams, green meadows, little tarns and forests where the sun-filtered peace is broken only by the sighing of the pines. Maybe they aren't the highest mountains in the world, the grandest, or the most beautiful - but they provide a mighty satisfying escape hatch from the tensions of modern living.

For many years in my spare time I headed for these high places. Although more interested in exploring Southern California's exhilarating rooftops than in peakbagging, I found in 1946 that I had stood upon 100 summits over 5,000 ft. altitude between Tehachapi Pass and the Mexican border. The experience in doing so had been so gratifying that I suggested to a few fellow Sierrans that we start a "Hundred Peaks Game." The rules were simple - reach the top of 100 Southern California mountains, 5,000' or over, on foot, horseback, car, helicopter or levitation. They liked the idea, and for something to aim at we prepared a list of all 188 named peaks in the Santa Barbara, San Gabriel, San Bernardino, San Jacinto, San Diego and other smaller Southern California ranges. Among these we were surprised that 13 topped 10,000 ft. elevation.

The Hundred Peaks game caught on immediately, and since then an increasing number of enthusiastic Sierra Club members have been ferreting out remote roads, trails, canyons, and firebreaks to reach seldom-visited mountains to add to their collection. All Hundred Peakers keep records and compare notes, and attaining the century summit is an occasion for congratulation and celebration. It also means that the distinctive blue-and-white enamel Hundred Peaks emblem may be proudly displayed on hat or shirt.

The "Game" was a popular Sierra Club activity with no official status until 1955, when it became a full-fledged section of the Angeles Chapter. Then, bylaws were adopted, chairman and other officers elected, and a definite purpose stated. This reads: "to encourage the climbing of peaks throughout Southern California; to preserve records, history and other information of these peaks; and to bring together those having this mutual interest. Peaks shall be over 5,000', south of the Tehachapi Pass and west of the desert basins." A revised list of 212 named mountains was compiled and membership opened to all Sierrans who reach the top of any 25 of them.

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But whatever the Hundred Peaks Section may do in the future, there isn't a doubt that it has already greatly stimulated appreciation of Southern California's natural heritage. Up in the quiet, unspoiled sky-country, its members seem to have found an antidote to the fast-paced valleys below. And, best of all, their field is not some far-distant wilderness realm, hard to reach, but friendly, easily accessible mountains which may be visited in a day's round-trip from their own garages.

100 Peaks Officers

Chairman.....Mary Meisel
Vice Chairman.....Glenn Stevenson
Secr.-Treas.....Bill Rietkerk
So. Sierran Repr..Bob Hawthorne
Senior Officer....Walt Wheelock

Editor.....Mary Meisel
Reporter.....Laura Steele
EX 3-0411
Art.....Lois Thomas
Owen 7-5575
Mailing.....Judy Woodbury
DI 4-1645

(for other tels. see schedule)



This is the first issue of the 100 Peaks bulletin. Like all newly discovered peaks it's nameless. So get busy and think of one. There'll be a prize for the best name - something suitable for a peak bagger's bulletin. The officers will be the judges. Deadline: March 20th. Mail suggestions to: Mary Meisel.

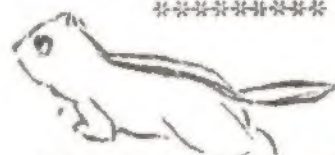
In connection with this, donations are needed. It is hoped to obtain enough blue and green trading stamps to get a thermic jug or thermos, just the thing for that refreshing pause after a dusty hike. This will be the winner's prize. And while we're on the subject of donations, also needed is some of that green stuff (lucre) for expenses involved in this and future issues. (\$1.00 would be fine for a year.) Perhaps at the next annual meeting the by-laws can be changed so that \$1.00 dues per year per peak member would take care of such expenses.

Send donations to Bill Rietkerk, 1941 Glencoe Way, L.A. 28, stamps to Mary Meisel, 15101 Kingsbury St., Mission Hills.

This publication will be issued four times a year. If you think it should be monthly, drop the editor a line, or phone, and let your opinions be known.

The "Format"

In the bulletin it is hoped to cover such subjects as descriptions of hikes, previewing the new schedule, news on peaks such as inaccessibility, items of historical interest, changes in roads leading to peaks, news about members, perhaps a question & answer column, peak-of-the-month and the column which will feature what is called the "American's privilege", - the gripe. So send in your news, gripes, peak facts, etc. If you have a gripe you're just dying to air and yet wish to remain anonymous, ok, we promise not to use your name.



The Annual Picnic

A number of changes were decided on. In addition to the new officers shown on this page, there were several innovations. New emblem holders will be taken out to dinner (the officers and those previously taken to dinner are responsible for arrangements.) So, if you're getting near that 100 mark let one of the officers know, and the date of the dinner can be published in the next issue. A restaurant will be chosen near the member's home.

A certificate will be issued to those with 25 peaks.

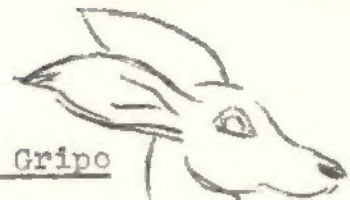
It is hoped to have a group party soon for all with 200 peaks or over. Let us know your interest in this.

Attachments to the emblem will be obtained for those with 200 or over.

It was decided to use large-sized bandaid cans for registers so please save them and pass them on to an officer.

*Happy Peak-
Baggering in
1964*

(Don't forget Pg. 3 - didn't have space for New Years greetings there)



Preview

- Mar. 7 - McDill, Burnt, Sawmill,
Liebre
15 - Black & Meeks
28 - Lookout #2
- Apr. 4 - Twin Peaks
11 - Disappointment & San Gabriel
- May 9 - Pilot Rock, Marie Louise
16-17 - Maduled, West Pine, Big
Pine, Samon
23 - San Sevaime Lookout
- June 6-7 - 3 Sisters & Onyx
13-14 - Pacheco & Hot Springs
20 - Ross Mtn.

Unless there were some last minute changes, that's the list for the new schedule.



Peak-Of-The-Month
- Will Thrall

This 7978' peak was formerly Pleasant View Ridge. On July 1st it was renamed for Will Thrall, a writer, whose columns appeared in the Los Angeles Times for many years. (Dick Worsfold has a collection of them.) Thrall wrote on the San Gabriels, and so renaming the peak for him was very fitting. He also wrote for Sunset Magazine. Because of his love for nature and his genuine interest in the San Gabriels he rated high with the rangers. He sought to interest others in hiking and to save the mountains for hiking. He lived to be about 84 years. Will Thrall Peak can be done from either the desert near Valyermo or from Buckhorn.

- Steve Molnar

Lost & Found:

Found - Starflash Camera, lost by Riverside Chapt. member from Rialto, Nov. 23 Mineral Mtn. trip. Who was the girl who lost it - anybody know?

Lost - Pen, Steve Molnar, 12/28
Loaned for register sign.

This Month's Gripe

There have been several complaints made to the 100 Peaks Chairman about schedule conflicts - 100 Peaks done by other groups on the same weekend as a 100 peak hike. If you have a strong opinion on this, one way or the other, please come to the January business meeting, date and place of which will appear elsewhere in this bulletin. Two or more peak hikes for the same weekend make it difficult to decide which to do and some peak baggers object strenuously.

Your Chairman.



Help!

If you've moved, please send Secretary Bill Rietkerk your new address so that the records can be brought up to date. Future issues won't have a 5¢ stamp so will not be forwarded if you move. The records need to be brought up to date. In checking them over it was found that some members were deceased. See what we mean?

January Business Meeting

Purpose: Peak conflicts
proposed by-laws change
dinner plans
peak records
& anything which may arise

Date: January 17th (3rd Fri.)

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Home of Bill Rietkerk

All officers and interested peak-baggers please attend.

WE WANT YOU IN PERSON!

Our sincere thanks to Dorothy Cutler who volunteered to run off the first couple of issues. (So. Sierran Ed. for a long time)